

Remarks

Claims 1-10 are pending in the application following entry of this Amendment. No Claims have been canceled. Claims 1, 5, 6 and 8 have been amended. Claims 1 and 5 are the only independent claims pending.

No new matter is added by the amendments and additions made herein. The amendments clarify the meaning of the terminology used in the Claims, and support for the amendments are found in the original terminology used in the claims.

Each of the Examiner's objections or rejections is addressed below in the order they were presented in the Office Action mailed August 12, 2004.

Rejection Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102 in View of Lu et al. US Patent 6,684,121.

Please refer to the rejection, at page 2, section 2, line 8 of the section. Therein, the rejection states, that "different production lines to which the lot ID is moved to perform one of the transactions," is taught by Lu at (col. 5, lines 52-56). However, Lu is teaching a manufacturing execution system, shown in Fig. 1, having an MES comprised of a numerical series of MES1, ... MESn, shown in Fig. 1 by numbers 10a, ... 10n. There is no disclosure of moving a manufacturing lot ID from one MES1 to another MESn in Fig. 1.

Please refer to the rejection, section 2, line 9 thereof. The rejection states that, "the database supplies each of the different production lines with the MES rules of the current production line (col. 5 and 6, lines 52-67 and 1-7)." However, in Lu, work in process, WIP, status data are transferred to a network 15 for distribution to subscribers. Fig. 3 shows the network 15, INFO BUS, connected to message log subscriber processors 120a, 120b, ... 120n. (col. 8, line 33). Lu discloses, at column 8, lines 5-9, that "The encapsulation information is often referred to as 'business wrapper' and describe the types of business decisions that are to be made from the information of WIP status." Lu does not appear to teach movement of a manufacturing lot from a current production line to different production lines, and a method of transferring MES

rules of a current production line to different production lines. Thus, Applicant's claims recite a patentable difference over Lu, and should be patentable under 35 USC 102(a).

Please refer to the rejection, section 2, line 10, thereof. The rejection states that Lu teaches, "the database recording transaction data in the current MES and a memory storing the data (col. 6 and 7, lines 66-77). However, Lu therein teaches a unified data storage 62 that stores WIP status, as well as, the users of WIP status data to which the users subscribe. The data to which the users subscribe is described by Lu in detail at column 6, lines 26-46. Therein, Lu describes WIP status data encapsulated with a wrapper or segment code in XML (Internet protocol) for a subscription code. The user is entitled to receive only certain types or subjects of WIP data, such as, "scrapped lots or lots on hold or delayed for some particular reason," and only those subjects having the code.

An advantage of Applicant's invention is that a manufacturing lot does not have to stay in one production line, and experience delays of the production line. Lu teaches that such delays comprise WIP status data to notify subscribers. Applicant's invention claims a system to unify production data for a manufacturing lot. Thus, Applicant's invention permits the manufacturing lot to move to different production lines, for example, when a single production line is delayed for some reason, or when a different production line is reserved to perform the next manufacturing step. Applicant's production data is unified, and is not scattered among different production lines. Further, the different production lines are supplied with the MES rules of the current production line.

Lu discloses at column 5, line 51 to column 6, line 7, that only the status of a product is shared with subscribers. Such status includes, "scrapping of product or delaying or holding of product that may delay shipment of the product." Lu does not share production data. Thus, Applicant's claims recite a patentable difference over Lu, and should be patentable under 35 USC 102(a).

Applicant's claims 1-5 recite a system that unifies the production data

when a manufacturing lot is manufactured on different production lines, and moves from a current production line to different production lines. Lu does not disclose whether or not a work in process is moved from a current production line to different production lines, according to Applicant's invention. Thus, Applicant's claims recite a further patentable difference over Lu, and should be patentable under 35 USC 102(a).

Further, Applicant's method claims recite a method of unifying capacity utilization, including, reserving different production lines to perform a next step on a manufacturing lot. Lu does not teach whether or not Fig. 1 discloses MFG. Line 1, 5a and MFG. LINE n, 5n, are reserved to perform a next step. Thus, Applicant's claims recite a further patentable difference over Lu, and should be patentable under 35 USC 102(a).


Applicant's dependent claims are separately patentable under 35 USC 102(a). They add further recitations to the independent claims 1 and 6, and thereby recite further differences over Lu under 35 USC 102(a).

Summary

In view of the foregoing amendment and Remarks supporting patentability, allowance is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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